CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for operating a server responsive to a request for data from a client browser, comprising the steps of:

receiving from said browser a head request for the header of a data file;

responsive to said head request, serving to said browser data file header information including data type and data size;

receiving from said browser a get request; and thereafter

responsive to said get request, serving to said browser data corresponding to said header.

2. A method for operating a client browser for requesting a data file from a server, comprising the steps of:

receiving data parameters from a browser user;

communicating to said server a head request;

receiving from said server in response to said head request a data file header describing data file parameters;

determining if said data file parameters are within said user data parameters; and if so,

communicating to said server a get request requesting said server to serve said data file.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said data parameters define the data type and data size acceptable to said user and wherein said data file parameters include the data content type and data content size of said data file.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said data file comprises a plurality of data files including one or more inline documents.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein each of said plurality of data files is of a type selected from the set of data file types including image data, video data, audio data, and text data.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein a head request is submitted separately for each said inline document.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said get request is submitted selectively only for those inline documents having data parameters within said user parameters.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein said data parameters include a maximum data size and a minimum data size acceptable to said user.

9. The method of claim 2, responsive to said data file parameters not being within said user data parameters, comprising the further step of providing to said user the option of modifying said user data parameters.

10. The method of claim 2, responsive to said data file parameters not being within said user data parameters, comprising the further step of providing to said user the option of requesting a portion of said data file.

11. A server system, comprising:

a first logic element for receiving from a client browser a head request for the header of a data document;

a second logic element responsive to said head request for serving to said client browser a data document header including data type indicia and data size indicia;

a third logic element for receiving from said browser a get request; and

a fourth logic element responsive to said get request for serving to said browser a data document

corresponding to said header.

12. A server system, comprising:

first means for receiving from a client browser a head request for the header of a data document;

second means responsive to said head request for serving to said client browser a data document header including data type indicia and data size indicia;

third means for receiving from said browser a get request; and

fourth means responsive to said get request for serving to said browser a data document corresponding to said header.

13. A client browser for requesting a data file from a server, comprising:

means for receiving data parameters from a browser user;

means for communicating to said server a head request;

means for receiving from said server in response to said head request a data file header describing data file parameters;

means for determining if said data file parameters are

within said user data parameters; and if so,

means operable for communicating to said server a get request requesting said server to serve said data file.

14. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps for operating a client browser for requesting a data file from a server, said method steps comprising:

receiving data parameters from a browser user;

communicating to said server a head request;

receiving from said server in response to said head request a data file header describing data file parameters;

determining if said data file parameters are within said user data parameters; and if so,

communicating to said server a get request requesting said server to serve said data file.

15. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for operating a client browser for requesting a data file from a server, the computer readable program means in said

article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect receiving data parameters from a browser user;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect communicating to said server a head request;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect receiving from said server in response to said head request a data file header describing data file parameters;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect determining if said data file parameters are within said user data parameters; and if so,

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect communicating to said server a get request requesting said server to serve said data file.

16. A computer program element for operating a client browser for requesting a data file from a server according to the steps of:

receiving data parameters from a browser user;

communicating to said server a head request;

receiving from said server in response to said head request a data file header describing data file parameters;

determining if said data file parameters are within said user data parameters; and if so,

communicating to said server a get request requesting said server to serve said data file.

17. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps for operating a server responsive to a request for data from a client browser, said method steps comprising:

receiving from said browser a head request for the header of a data file;

responsive to said head request, serving to said browser data file header information including data type and data size;

receiving from said browser a get request; and thereafter

responsive to said get request, serving to said browser data corresponding to said header.

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